

MSK-5003
4 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - January 1985

I. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Bureau once again topped the 600,000 mark in publishable wordage. The workload was caused primarily by the on-again-off-again North-South dialogue, and the North's reaction to the announcement of the annual "Team Spirit-85" exercises in the South.

The DPRK and ROK vice premiers exchanged letters through the open media on the holding of economic talks scheduled for 17 January, which never materialized because of DPRK charges that the "Team Spirit" exercises showed that the ROK did not desire peace. The North and South also used the radio to exchange letters on holding Red Cross talks in January, which were finally canceled by the North on the same charges. The Embassy Political Section requested hand-delivered copies of our translations of the various letters from the North, which were used in the preparation of Embassy cables--a now standard practice here. As the month passed, and the 1 February start of "Team Spirit" drew nearer, Pyongyang's propaganda shifted into high gear to denounce the exercises as an insult to proposals for peaceful negotiations and a threat to peace on the peninsula. The propaganda barrage was given added weight by a KCNA "Statement" and a talk by KWP Politburo member Ho Tam. The Bureau alerted key Embassy and Military consumers to these and several other significant reactions to "Team Spirit".

2. A bureau-initiated FYI noting leadership appearances of some WPK candidate members based on Pyongyang TV coverage of an agricultural rally helped AG to clarify the status of several of them.

3. Embassy and local military consumers requested the Bureau's assistance several times during the month in locating items of interest from French and Soviet media. At the bureau's request, London PMU translated and filed several articles on DPRK-French relations from French dailies, and London Bureau provided material on General Vessey's visit to China.

4. The Chinese Unit's translated wordage for the month topped 115,000, partly as a result of an adjustment in regional press coverage with Hong Kong that became effective on 1 January, and resulted in the Bureau picking up coverage of one additional regional daily.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Modernization

The Bureau received two IBM personal computers, printers and associated software on the 17th. The editorial staff, technicians and administrative assistant are busily familiarizing themselves with the computers. As particular uses for the units are identified, Bureau personnel will be assigned specific duties in establishing and maintaining computer files.

III. VISITS

The Bureau Chief visited Okinawa Bureau from 28-31 January for consultations and discussion of matters of mutual interest.

STAT



Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau